



When Writers Can't Write, They Pretend

Strikers Stage a 'Debate' on the Hill

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Washington Post

Thursday, January 24, 2008

Usually, the Rayburn Building is the kind of place they're avoiding. It's not only Washington's second oldest

You know, the ones who've single-handedly consigned the nation to endless reruns of "Law & Order: SVU"

So, yesterday, you had writers from "The Daily Show" coming to the Hill to face off against scribes from

It was also a way for certain Democratic congresspeople to insert themselves front and center in the debate

Rep. Anthony Weiner (N.Y.) declared that he wanted "the studios to do well," adding that "you can have

Rep. Steve Cohen (Tenn.) stepped up to tell everyone he had fun on "The Colbert Report," and Rep. Jo

"It is the writers that make us laugh, or make us cry," Schakowsky said. "They're the engines that keep t

Once the formalities were dispensed with, said wizards were finally given the floor, with "The Colbert Re

Former White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers, a onetime writer for "The West Wing," played mo

"We saw 'Charlie Wilson's War' last night," said "The Colbert Report's" Peter Grosz, playing a studio suit.

Ultimately, this was a decidedly one-sided debate, with the "producers" coming off none too well: "We've

"This strike is obviously difficult, because we're fighting just a very small number of very powerful media

"Well, who could do that?" asked Jason Ross, also of the "The Daily Show." "Who has that sort of power

"Beats me," Carvell said.

Pause for pointed looks at the lawmakers in the audience.

This was a hearing for those who are in on the joke, the ones inside the Beltway and the ones inside the

Then Protester No. 2 ("The Colbert Report" writer Peter Gwinn), clad in a green tee, bellowed, "I call upon

Things wrapped up with a Q&A from the audience. A ponytailed man wanted to know how things were g

"Have you sold your car?" he asked. "Are you burning up your savings?"

"Everyone has different means," Grosz said. Then, playing to the audience, he added, "We can't discuss